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# Strong Cellulose Nanofiber Composite Hydrogels via Interface Tailoring( Abstract\_要旨 )

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(続紙 1 )

京都大学	博士（農学）	氏名	楊賢鵬
論文題目	Strong Cellulose Nanofiber Composite Hydrogels via Interface Tailoring (セルロースナノファイバーを用いた高強度複合ゲルとその界面デザイン)		
<p>(論文内容の要旨)</p> <p>Cellulose, the most abundant biomass, has been commercially available in diverse fields, while the application of cellulose in the nanoscale is not yet widely commercialized. This study is to explore the application of cellulose in the nanoscale. Hydrogels are highly hydrated polymer networks, and have great potential in many areas, such as artificial tissues and soft bioelectronics. In many cases, hydrogels require load-bearing properties, however it is still challenging to obtain simultaneously tough and strong hydrogels. Nanocelluloses possess many advantages to reinforce hydrogels, including good hydrophilicity, impressive strength and stiffness, high specific surface area, and tunable surface chemistry. However, the reinforcement is limited: (1) the concentration of nanocellulose is low; (2) the nanocellulose-matrix architecture is scarcely designed. To solve above problems, cellulose nanofibers (CNFs), mechanically disintegrated from wood powders, were used to fabricate composite hydrogels. First, it is easy to filtrate CNF suspension to form a wet cake with a high CNF concentration. The obtained CNF cake, with layered structures, is expected to be composited with polymer networks. Second, the surfaces of CNFs are covered with hemicellulose which is more reactive than cellulose. The interfacial interactions between CNFs and polymer networks may be precisely fabricated.</p> <p>In Chapter 2, CNF/poly(vinyl alcohol) (PVA) hydrogels were prepared via direct blending. In brief, a wet CNF cake was immersed into PVA solution with various concentrations to absorb PVA, followed by drying-annealing and rehydration processes. The CNF/PVA hydrogels showed comparable elastic modulus and fracture strength to skin and cartilage. In addition, the CNF/PVA hydrogels had a high water content and showed high fracture energy.</p> <p>In Chapter 3, poly(acrylamide-co-acrylic acid) networks were incorporated into CNF cakes via in situ polymerization, followed by ionic cross-linking with Fe<sup>3+</sup>. This method also resulted in simultaneously stiff, strong and tough hydrogels. Compared with the blending method in Chapter 2, the method of in situ polymerization was applied to diverse monomers, presenting versatile features. Based on the results of Chapter 2 and Chapter 3, it was proved that a wet CNF cake was an appropriate start material for strong and tough composite hydrogels. The polymer networks should have good compatibility with CNFs and be easily</p>			

cross-linked.

In Chapter 4, the surfaces of CNFs were modified to enhance the interfacial interactions between CNFs and matrix. The reaction of CNFs and maleic anhydride, using a CNF cake as a reactor, was examined. The water in the CNF cake was readily replaced by filtrating a mixture of solvent and reactant through the cake. At the same time, the reaction between the CNFs and reactant mixture occurred. This new modification method, inspired by the fluid in a plug flow reactor, was effective and convenient. Then, the polymer networks, which were the same as Chapter 3, were fabricated in the modified CNF cake. The composite hydrogels were indeed stiffened owing to the enhanced interfacial interactions, although the toughness was reduced.

In Chapter 5, a new method of grafting polymers from CNFs was developed. Various vinyl polymers, including hydrophobic and hydrophilic polymers, were grafted from CNFs via UV irradiation in the absence of an initiator. It is assumed that the primary free radicals were generated on the surfaces of CNFs. The hydrophilic-hydrophobic properties of CNFs were readily adjusted after polymer grafting while the crystalline structure of CNFs was retained.

In Chapter 6, polyacrylamide was grafted on CNFs via UV grafting to form a composite hydrogel, which resulted in toughened property in contrast to the initiator-based sample. It was confirmed that UV grafting was a powerful tool to prepare CNF composites with a nanofiber/grafted matrix architecture and excellent features. In addition, the surface chemistry of CNFs played an important role in the process of grafting.

In Chapter 7, poly(2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate) was grafted on CNF via UV grafting to form a composite hydrogel which presented strain-stiffening, strong and tough properties. The strain-stiffening behavior was ascribed to the synergistic alignment of CNFs and rearrangement of polymer networks. Double grafting was used to enhance the strain-stiffening behavior. It is believed that multiple UV grafting can result in diverse CNF/matrix architectures.

The main findings of this study are summarized as follows: (1) incorporating polymer networks into a CNF cake was an effective approach to prepare stiff, strong and tough composite hydrogels; (2) interfacial interactions between CNFs and matrix were tailored by surface modification and polymer grafting; (3) the plug flow reactor method simplified the chemical modification of CNFs; (4) UV grafting was a powerful method to graft vinyl polymers on CNFs and prepare composite hydrogel with excellent features.

注) 論文内容の要旨と論文審査の結果の要旨は1頁を38字×36行で作成し、合わせて、3,000字を標準とすること。

論文内容の要旨を英語で記入する場合は、400～1,100 wordsで作成し  
審査結果の要旨は日本語500～2,000字程度で作成すること。

(続紙 2 )

(論文審査の結果の要旨)

セルロースナノファイバー (CNF) は全ての植物原料から製造することが可能な結晶性ナノ繊維である。軽量でありながら、繊維方向に優れた力学特性を有するため、近年その製造法や利用について盛んに研究が行われている。本論文では特にセルロースナノファイバーによるハイドロゲルの補強に着目し、強度および靱性に優れたコンポジットゲルの作製を目指している。本研究で得られた主な成果を以下に記す。

- (1) CNFの補強性能を把握するために、ポリビニルアルコール (PVA) とのコンポジットゲルを作製し、その特性を調べた。水素結合によりCNFとPVAが強固に結合した結果、非常に高い強度を有するゲルが作製された。この結果から、フィラーとマトリックス間の結合の有無がゲルの特性、特に靱性に大きく寄与することが示された。
- (2) 粘度の高いPVAとCNFとの均質な複合化には多大な時間を要することから、モノマーとCNFを混合後、in situ重合を行うことで、簡便に均質なコンポジットゲルを得る手法を開発した。
- (3) CNFとマトリックスポリマーとの親和性をさらに向上させるため、CNF表面の化学改質を行い、マトリックスとの結合の程度を制御した。結果として、CNFとマトリックスとの結合度が、コンポジットゲルの強度と靱性のバランスに大きく作用することが示された。
- (4) CNF表面の化学改質とマトリックスとの複合化を簡略化するため、CNF表面にマトリックスポリマーをグラフト重合する手法を検討した。検討の結果、UV照射によりCNF表面からグラフト重合できることが明らかになった。CNF水懸濁液中に添加したマトリックスモノマーがUVによって簡便にCNF表面にグラフトされるため、通常の誘導体化に必要な溶媒置換も不要となる。様々なポリマーが導入できるため、CNFのさらなる親水化、または疎水化も可能となる。
- (5) 表面グラフト化CNFを用いて強靱なコンポジットゲルを作製した。グラフトによりマトリックスポリマーとCNFはすでに強固に結合しており、マトリックスポリマー間の結合度合いのみを制御することで、より靱性の高いゲルの作製に成功した。

これらの成果により得られたゲル材料は、今後は人工組織やバイオエレクトロニクス材料への応用展開が期待される。

以上のように、本論文ではセルロースナノファイバーとマトリックスとの界面に焦点を当て、高強度・高靱性ゲルの製造および特性制御について幅広く考察したものであり、木質バイオマス利用および先端材料製造に向けた技術の開発を通じてセルロース科学、木質材料学、生物機能材料学の発展に寄与するところが多い。

よって、本論文は博士 (農学) の学位論文として価値あるものと認める。

なお、令和2年2月18日、論文並びにそれに関連した分野にわたり試問した結果、博士 (農学) の学位を授与される学力が十分あるものと認めた。

注) 論文内容の要旨、審査の結果の要旨及び学位論文は、本学学術情報リポジトリに掲載し、公表とする。

ただし、特許申請、雑誌掲載等の関係により、要旨を学位授与後即日公表することに支障がある場合は、以下に公表可能とする日付を記入すること。

要旨公開可能日： 年 月 日以降 (学位授与日から3ヶ月以内)